

Mr. Wayne S. Smith, the Johns Hopkins University  
from Harold Weinsberg

9/2/93

Expecting guests from Baltimore day after tomorrow, I'll ask one to get your correct address and mail this.

Your CJR article prompts this letter for a number of reasons, one being to caution you about sources and to call two dubious statements in your piece that can lead to damaging criticisms if in a book.

Please excuse my typing. It cannot be any better. I'm past 80 now, with a number of serious and limiting illnesses. I'm devoting all the time I can to efforts to perfect the historical record in the JFK case and its investigations. This leads me to rush and if I am not clear, please let me know.

It is Humes' testimony that he did not speak to Perry until some time Saturday morning. He lied. He knew what his protocol would say Saturday before midnight and told Perry in a phone call. From your not knowing this I take it you are not familiar with my work.

I'm not taking the time to check but the Custer and Riebe press conference you say <sup>they</sup> arranged and held ("held their own press conference") was I think arranged by Harrison Edward Livingstone, a fellow Baltimorean of yours I believe you will do well to ~~stay~~ stay far away from. His are bad books, too, as is the one coming. Harry is an impossible man to deal with and his books are seriously faulted. Even his interviews are. He holds them to argue his belief and his basic beliefs, reflected in what you say of that press conference, have no validity. He makes them up or takes those of others. Right now he is menacing to some of us. I think you may want to avoid that kind of distraction, especially when using him can be an invitation to a book disaster. He is paranoid and I believe otherwise certifiable and a mental case.

You should know to begin with that I have a book <sup>all</sup> being prepared for publication that using those JAMA pieces as the skeleton, and treading them at some length, is an inclusive overview with new evidence. The thrust of my work is that in those times of great crisis all the institutions of our society failed and continue to fail and I use JAMA to symbolize the major media in the coming NEVER AGAIN! A friend will be copublisher and I have no knowledge of when it will appear. So I can devote myself to other work I'm not even seeking to learn when.

Do not misunderstand me. I'm not trying to discourage you. To the contrary, I've more official records than you would want to try to read but I make all I have available to all writing in the field and <sup>to</sup> most students. I know to begin with that I'll disagree with almost all of them but I believe that FOIA makes me surrogate for the people. I've gotten about a third of a million pages by about a dozen lawsuits. We also permit use of our copier.

Two of the medical problems lead to my living convoluted hours. A prostate condition and sleep apnea. I've found that I can get a little more sleep because I always get up too early and wide awake if I retire early. I aim for 7 p.m.

But it has not been safe for me to drive out of Frederick since 1977 and I have not. When I'm at the Hopkins hospital I'm driven there and back. So we are never away from home for very long.

If you have any questions about me although I have not asked his permission I am certain that Dr. Gerald McKnight, History Department, local Hood College, home phone 301/473-5639 will answer any questions you may have. He is a dear friend but he'll be truthful. All I have goes to Hood, not only these FOIA records.

I also caution you against placing any trust at all in any of the books or articles that are conspiracy theories. That there was a conspiracy, which not one of them proves, does not indicate who conspired.

Good luck with your project. I'll help in anyway I can.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg